

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAJ-01 CIEP-02

OMB-01 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 022043

R 051812Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1838

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: NUM MODERATES REBUFFED ON DOMESTIC, EC ISSUES

REF: LONDON 8374

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IF JULY 2 WAS "MODERATES DAY" AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINEWORKERS (NUM), THE LEFT-WING MILITANTS DID MUCH BETTER ON JULY

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4TH BY PUSHING THROUGH, 151 TO 121, A LEFT-WING SCOTTISH

RESOLUTION REJECTING AN INCOMES POLICY IN ANY SHAPE OR FORM. MODERATE SUPPORTERS OF THE EC WERE ALSO OVERWHELMED WHEN THE NUM CONFERENCE CALLED ON ITS LEADERS TO CEASE HAVING ANYTHING FURTHER TO DO WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. END SUMMARY

2. THE SCOTTISH RESOLUTION, WHICH NUM LEFTWINGERS SUCH AS ARTHUR SCARGILL, A LEADER FROM YORKSHIRE, DESCRIBED AS A DEFEAT FOR THE SOCIAL CONTRACT, CERTAINLY TEMPERS THE VICTORY OF THE MODERATES ON JULY 2. AT THAT TIME, MODERATES SUPPORTED BY THE NUM EXECUTIVE, SUCCEEDED IN NARROWLY DEFEATING A MILITANT PROPOSAL FOR PAY INCREASES UP TO 20 POUNDS A WEEK AND IN SUBSTITUTING FOR IT A RELATIVELY MODERATE CALL FOR "SUBSTANTIAL," BUT UNSPECIFIED, INCREASES DURING THE NEXT ROUND OF WAGE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. IT IS OF COURSE TRUE THAT THE "NO-TARGET" WAGE RESOLUTION STILL STANDS, AND THIS IS IMPORTANT, SINCE THE SPECIFIC NAMING OF WAGE TARGETS DURING THE LAST NEGOTIATIONS SET THE STAGE FOR THE DEVASTATING COAL STRIKE THIS PAST WINTER, AND FOR THAT MATTER IN 1972. HOWEVER, THE ACTION ON JULY 4 UNDERLINES ONCE AGAIN THE VOLATILE AND UNPREDICTABLE CHARACTER OF THE NUM AND AT THE VERY LEAST RAISES QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER THE NUM WILL SUPPORT THE SOCIAL CONTRACT AT THE SEPTEMBER TUC CONGRESS IN BRIGHTON. NEITHER NUM PRESIDENT JOE GORMLEY OR EVEN, SURPRISINGLY, THE NORMALLY LEFTISH GENERAL SECRETARY LAWRENCE DALY, HOWEVER, SHARE THE MILITANTS' INTERPRETATION. DALY REPORTEDLY DECLARED THAT THE "MINERS WILL COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND I BELIEVE THAT THIS MEANS THERE WILL BE A PEACEFUL WINTER IN THE PITS."

4. IF THERE WERE DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE SOCIAL CONTRACT, THE NUM LEADERSHIP COULD HAVE NO DOUBTS ABOUT THE DELEGATES' VIEWS ON NUM PARTICIPATION IN EC INSTITUTIONS. BY AN OVERWHELMING VOTE OF 180 TO 92, THE DELEGATES INSTRUCTED THEIR LEADERS THAT THEY SHOULD NO LONGER ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE EUROPEAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY. THIS RESOLUTION IS A VERY SHARP REBUFF TO THOSE NUM LEADERS, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY GORMLEY AND DALY, WHO HAVE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THESE EC MEETINGS. EFFORTS BY GORMLEY AND DALY TO SOFTEN THE RESOLUTION WERE REBUFFED.

5. COMMENT: BOTH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WILL BE IMPORTANT ISSUES AT THE BRIGHTON TUC

CONGRESS. THE POWERFUL TUC LEADER JACK JONES, TOLD US DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION, THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THE SOCIAL CONTRACT WILL BE STRONGLY SUPPORTED AT BRIGHTON. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT "DESPITE A UNION HERE OR THERE WHO WANTS TO KICK OVER THE TRACES" THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF TUC UNIONS WISHES TO AVOID AT ALL COSTS GIVING ANY EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION (WHICH HE LIKE SO MANY OTHERS BELIEVES WILL TAKE PLACE THIS AUTUMN.) JONES ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE TUC CONGRESS WILL PROVIDE THE ELECTION PLATFORM FOR THE LABOR PARTY.

6. THE EC ISSUE IS A MUCH MORE DIFFICULT ONE. THE TUC

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IS ALREADY ON RECORD OF OPPOSITION TO THE COMMUNITY,
BUT HAS SUPPORTED THE LABOR GOVERNMENT'S RENEGOTIATION
POLICY. THE NUM VOLTE-FACE ABOUT ITS REPRESENTATION AT
EC INSTITUTIONS AND RECENT DECLARATIONS BY SOME UNIONS,
MOST NOTABLY THE AMALGAMATED UNION OF ENGINEERING
WORKERS (AUEW), CALLING FOR SIMPLE AND OUTRIGHT WITH-
DRAWAL, WILL CERTAINLY EXACERBATE DISCUSSION OF THE
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QUESTION AT BRIGHTON AND IF THERE IS NO NORMAL LABOR
PARTY CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER, AS ONE REPORTER PUT IT
(KEITH HARPER, THE GUARDIAN, JULY 5TH), "IT COULD BE
AN EMBARRASSING ONE FOR THE GOVERNMENT." SOME TUC
OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, SUCH AS NORMAN WILLIS, TUC ASSISTANT
GENERAL SECRETARY, ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE TUC AT
BRIGHTON WILL NOT WANT TO STRAIT-JACKET THE PARTY ON
THE EC. AND IN FACT, EVEN JACK JONES, WHO HAS BEEN A
POWERFUL ANTI-MARKETEER, TOLD US HE FAVORS A REFERENDUM
AFTER THE ELECTION, IN CONTRAST TO A SIMPLE CALL FOR
OUTRIGHT WITHDRAWAL HERE AND NOW. JONES ALSO ACKNOW-
LEDGED THAT IF THE PRIME MINISTER DECLARES WHEN A
REFERENDUM IS SUBMITTED TO THE PEOPLE THAT THE RE-
NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL, THIS COULD SWING MANY
TRADE UNIONISTS AWAY FROM WITHDRAWAL.

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